

COMSCINST <b>4650.2C</b>	COG CODE <b>PM5</b>	DATE <b>6 JUN 1983</b>
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
 COMMANDER MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND  
 WASHINGTON NAVY YARD BLDG 210  
 901 M STREET SE  
 WASHINGTON DC 20398-5540

COMSCINST 4650.2C  
 M-3T1  
 6 June 1983

## COMSC INSTRUCTION 4650.2C

Subj: Passengers on board MSC controlled ships

Ref: (a) COMSCINST 7600.3G  
 (b) COMSCINST 7720.1F

1. Purpose. This instruction sets forth policy for the transportation of passengers on board MSC controlled ships.
2. Cancellation. COMSC Instruction 4650.2B.
3. Applicability. This instruction applies to the surface movement of military and civilian passengers, including supercargoes, sponsored by the Department of Defense on board MSC controlled ships. The instruction does not apply to military passengers on board Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force ships, Scientific Support ships, and industry representatives on board MSC controlled ships for MSC's benefit.
4. Background. The Military Sealift Command's involvement with passenger movement reduced significantly in the late 1960's with the shift of routine Department of Defense personnel travel from surface to air. However, occasional requests for surface transportation on MSC controlled ships are received for uniformed and civilian personnel of the Department of Defense, either unaccompanied or with dependents. Generally, surface travel is requested because air travel is medically contraindicated. Whether surface travel is required for the member or for a member's dependent, the entire family usually is booked, since the shipper services prefer to maintain family integrity. In addition to passengers on board MSC controlled ships strictly for transportation, supercargoes representing the shipper are accommodated to accompany special interest cargo.
5. Policy
  - a. The responsibility to arrange surface transportation for all passengers on board MSC controlled ships rests with MSC and is not to be delegated to the booking activity, the member, or his transportation officer. Since cargo transportation and special project operations are the first priorities of the various MSC controlled ships, passage of non-supercargo type passengers will be provided to Department of Defense members and dependents only when surface travel is "required" by the sponsor, vice "authorized". Prior to accepting DOD member and/or dependent(s) on a controlled ship the ship's master will be consulted to ascertain that adequate facilities exist aboard the ship to accommodate the number of passengers to be embarked.

6 June 1983

b. Passage will only be provided when ships will neither be delayed nor diverted for embarkation or debarkation of passengers.

c. The number of passengers embarked shall not normally exceed that allowed by the ship's certificate of inspection. However, as the military situation may permit, the approval of COMSC will be requested prior to embarking passengers in excess of the certificate of inspection. Regarding chartered ships, due consideration must be given the potential liability of MSC as the embarkation of excess passengers may be held to invalidate insurance placed on the vessel by the operator, in which event MSC, in accordance with the time charter war risk addendum, would be obligated to indemnify the operator for losses that would otherwise have been covered by such insurance (see paragraph 7).

6. Procedures for movement of passenger/s in MSC controlled ships

a. Supercargoes. Supercargoes are usually military personnel assigned to accompany high interest cargo being shipped on MSC controlled ships. Embarkation of supercargoes should be consistent with the availability of adequate berthing and the vessel's certificate of inspection. Supercargo transportation will be arranged by the appropriate MSC office. Copies of order must be presented for record purposes to the MSC command making the arrangements. Billing will be accomplished by COMSC. Rates are in accordance with reference (a), and reporting will be in accordance with reference (b).

b. Passengers. For passengers returning CONUS, the booking office will contact the appropriate MSC activity to make arrangements for carrying passengers on board MSC controlled ships. For CONUS outbound travel, all requests for surface travel will be coordinated with MSC Headquarters. In all cases, two copies of member's orders endorsed "surface transportation required" must be provided the cognizant area command prior to passenger embarkation. A covering letter/memorandum providing certification is satisfactory in lieu of actual endorsement. The aforementioned endorsement/certification is to originate at Service Department level for CONUS outbound passengers. The cognizant Commander in Chief must provide proper endorsement for CONUS inbound passengers. Billing will be accomplished by COMSC. Rates and reporting will be in accordance with references (a) and (b), respectively.

7. Emergency movement of passengers in MSC controlled ships. Nothing in the foregoing policy is intended to prevent or restrict the movement of passengers on MSC controlled ships in an emergency. Where, in the opinion of competent authority, an emergency is deemed to exist which overrides considerations of adequate medical facilities, expense to the government, and normal hazards of passenger travel on board cargo ships not equipped or modified to safeguard passengers at sea, passengers may be embarked and transported without prior approval.

/s/

W.C.HAMM, Jr.

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See page (3)

6 June 1983

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